

Alert!

A potential fire hazard involving wall heating unit electrical plugs. The plugs are under a voluntary recall by the manufacturer "McQuay." The information below is from a nursing home fire report January 2008. A similar event occurred at another nursing home in November 2007: See the attached PDF's of the pictures with the burned plugs.

A fire incident at the electrical plug for the PTAC unit. Staff member removed occupant(s) and pull the fire alarm. Staff used a fire extinguisher on the PTAC unit and plug. Fire was contained to the plug unit of the PTAC unit. The plug was designed with the GFI built into the plug. The PTAC unit was a McQuay brand and the plug had the letters TRC on the front and the Model # was 37190 and had listed on the back-"Made in China".

The plug had melted down to a point where the electrical plug points and wiring were all that remained. The staff member saw a bright flash of light and smoke that alerted her to the problem. The Maintenance Director looked at other PTAC units and found two more electrical plugs that were showing overheating problems and brown heat spots adjacent and around the electrical plug blades and on top of one of the plug units. They cut these off those units.

Damage held to the PTAC unit and a small wall area above the right side of the unit that was smoke stained.

More info:

PTAC-Personal Temperature Air Control or Conditioner.

Plug shows Canadian Certified but we could not find any U.L. number on the plug.

Plug did state made in China.

The additional plugs and the plug that melted did show signs of electrical pitting on the hot lead blade of the plug. The system is a 220-V system.

If you find these plugs, please provide the recall information to the client, and urge them to replace them.